



OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

May 8, 2007

RICK PERRY
GOVERNOR

Mr. Kevin J. Martin
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
236 Massachusetts Avenue NE, Suite 110
Washington, D.C. 20002

RE: WC Docket No. 02-06, Rural Health Care Pilot Program, Texas Healthcare Information Network for Communities

Dear Chairman Martin:

I am pleased to add my support to the Texas Healthcare Information Network for Communities (THINC) being submitted by CHRISTUS Health System in response to the Federal Communication Commission sponsored Rural Health Care Pilot Program.

As Governor of Texas, I believe better information technology for health care will improve quality and patient safety while reducing costs. THINC will expand resource access to rural health care providers who currently lack connectivity by establishing a statewide telecommunications network dedicated to connecting our rural communities with urban resource centers.

I strongly support innovative strategies such as those proposed through THINC. I recently formed by executive order an advisory group called the Texas Health Care System Integrity Partnership (THCSIP) to develop operational plans for the implementation of state-level Health IT functions. The Texas Legislature is currently considering THCSIP's recommendations. THINC's goals are consistent with my charge to THCSIP and my belief that the health care system in Texas can deliver safer, higher-quality care in a more cost-effective way through greater use of technology.

I urge you to carefully consider the merits of the proposal submitted by CHRISTUS Health System. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

A large, stylized handwritten signature of Rick Perry in black ink.
Rick Perry
Governor

RP:ysp

cc: Mr. Phil Wilson, Deputy Chief of Staff, Office of the Governor